Attorney's Docket No.: 00167-432002 / 02-31-0500

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dennis Colleran et al. Art Unit: 3738

Serial No.: 10/724,121 Examiner: Melanie Jo Hand

Filed : December 1, 2003 Conf. No. : 9916

Title : TISSUE REPAIR SYSTEM

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF OCTOBER 25, 2006

Claims 1 and 25-51 are pending, with claims 1 and 48-50 being independent. Claims 48-51 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 25-47 have been rejected for double-patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,656,183. Applicants submit the attached terminal disclaimer to obviate this rejection.

Applicants also wish to inform the Examiner that U.S. Patent No. 6,656,183 is currently under reexamination. The reexamination application number is 90/006,989. Applicants have attached the first substantive Office Action received in the reexamination proceeding for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Attorney's Docket No.: 00167-432002 / 02-31-0500

Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this response. Nevertheless, if any fees are due, please charge the fees to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Reberto J. Devoto Reg. No. 55,108

Fish & Richardson P.C. 1425 K Street, N.W. 11th Floor

Washington, DC 20005-3500 Telephone: (202) 783-5070 Facsimile: (202) 783-2331

40391829.doc